

Commission Highlights

June 6, 2002 Meeting Highlights

Please note the following information is intended to be a brief summary of Commission actions and should not be considered as any form of minutes for the referenced meeting.

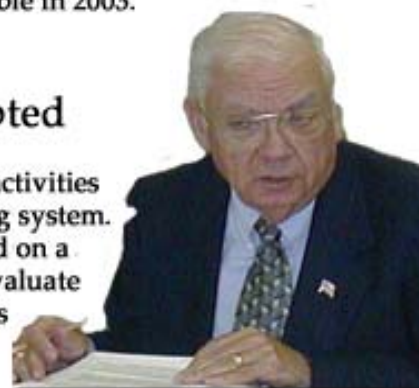


Commission Approves Mission Change for USC-Beaufort

After a long process, beginning with local support in Beaufort, through the USC administrative system, and culminating with the Commission's approval, USC-Beaufort will now have the authority to confer Baccalaureate Degrees. Previously, USC-Beaufort has been limited to offering two-year degrees, and has to rely on other institutions to offer more advanced degrees on their campus in order to serve their students. The Commission considered state and regional needs, as well as available resources in determining USC-Beaufort's request for mission change. While the authority is now in place, four-year degrees will not be available until the programs are developed and approved by the Commission. Plans are for the first four-year USC-Beaufort degree to be available in 2003.

Performance Funding Scores Adopted

Higher Education has now completed six years of activities under the legislatively created Performance Funding system. Each year, institutions report data and are evaluated on a variety of indicators so that the Commission may evaluate their performance. Each institution's performance is evaluated against a set of standards for institutions within their sector. After all of the indicators are scored, a composite score is determined, and the institutions are given an overall score, ranging from Substantially Exceeds Standards and the highest score, to Substantially Fails to Achieve Standards, as the lowest score. This year 18 institutions scored in the Achieves Standards category, 14 institutions scored in the Exceeds Standards category, and one institution scored in the Substantially Exceeds Standards category. That institution is the Medical University of South Carolina, and is the first institution since the creation of the current scoring system to earn that distinction. Congratulations to all institutions for their performance!





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Commission Approves Capital Project Activities

The Commission approved \$7.9 million in interim capital projects and lease requests involving several college campuses. Three different projects, along with one lease, from three institutions were considered and approved for consideration by the Joint Bond Review Committee and the Budget & Control Board. A complete listing of projects and the lease is provided below:

Institution	Project	Amount
1. SC State University	1890 Misc. Repairs	\$2,165,818
2. SC State University	Campus-wide Energy Performance Contract	\$2,000,000
3. Trident Tech. College	Trident-Complex Phase III Renov.	\$3,780,000
Lease		Annual Amt.
4. Clemson University	Library/Document Storage	\$104,500/5yrs.



Superintendent Tennenbaum visits Commission

Ms. Inez Tennenbaum, State Superintendent of Education visited with the Commission to discuss her views on the education system in South Carolina, and particularly how a K-16 approach could benefit the state.

Ms. Tennenbaum noted several areas where our state is doing very well, and making great progress in improving the quality of the educational opportunities for all students. Also, with the continued implementation of statewide accountability measures, student performance is improving. Of note, SAT and ACT scores have increased in recent years, and student performance on the TerraNova standardized test are very impressive. In fact, South Carolina eighth graders met or exceeded the international average on this test. Ms. Tennenbaum also discussed the "No Child Left Behind" federal legislation and how it will impact our state. Currently, we are on schedule to implement this legislation with South Carolina already having both standards and assessment systems in place. Finally, Ms. Tennenbaum commented on how higher education can help improve our K-12 system by working with schools and districts to continue to improve the teacher preparation curriculum and providing high quality teachers for all of our schools.